

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 36 have been amended to specify that the support has an outer surface, and is a sensor or an optical waveguide. Support for the amendments is throughout the specification, for example at page 4, [0008] and original claim 6. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 48 and 50 under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112 are respectfully requested. Because the present amendment cancels claims 48 and 50, this rejection is now moot. Further, the Examiner will note that amended claims 1 and 36 now contain a recitation of an outer surface, and a sensor or optical waveguide. Thus, those claims should not be subject to the rejection as stated in the Action.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-12, 14, 17-19, 36-41, 44 and 47 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and the rejection of claims 1-21, 36-46, and 49 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), are respectfully requested.¹ Applicants continue to disagree respectfully with the Examiner's observations regarding the prior art relied on in these rejections, for the reasons advanced previously. However, in order to advance prosecution of the present application, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of former claim 48, and claim 36 has been amended to include the limitations of former claim 50. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of prior claims 1 and 36 in a continuing application. Because claims 48 and 50 were not included in the pending prior art rejections, it is submitted that the rejections should not

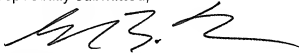
¹ The Action includes claim 6 in both rejections. Applicants assume that to be a typographical error, because claim 6 was canceled on July 17, 2007.

apply to amended claims 1 and 36, and the remaining claims that all depend from those claims.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants believe that the all pending rejections have been overcome, submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance; and respectfully request the allowance of the instant application.

If any fee is due in connection with the filing of this Response, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,



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